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Letter dated 27 April 2001 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

The Democratic Republic of the Congo was distressed to learn of the murder of six staff of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), four of Congolese nationality and two foreigners, which took place on Thursday, 26 April 2001 in Orientale province, on the Bunia-Djugu road, some 30 kilometres from the town of Bunia, close to the Ugandan border.

On behalf of my Government, I request you to be so kind as to transmit our sincerest condolences to ICRC and to the families of the victims.

According to information in our possession, the cowardly murder of the six ICRC staff was most probably committed by the members of the Ugandan regular army (UPDF) who "discovered" the bodies.

This shocking tragedy took place in a zone that is under the effective control of Uganda, the main agent of arms proliferation in the region, and in which tension is still very high between the Hema and Lendu communities, whose respective militias have been heavily armed by UPDF, which has manipulated them in order to induce them to tear one another apart.

My Government denounces this obstacle put in place by UPDF through its denial of access by humanitarian personnel to the Congolese populations in need of assistance.

My Government calls on the Security Council to hold Uganda primarily responsible for the cowardly murder of the ICRC staff and to require it to provide forthwith all necessary guarantees of the safety, security and freedom of movement of the United Nations and associated humanitarian personnel operating in the occupied provinces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo that are under its effective control.

My Government requests the Security Council to call on the Rwandan authorities to secure the dismantling of all the criminal and mafia movements, structures and networks that country has unfortunately organized in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The structures, whose ramifications it has now become apparent, extend up to the most senior UPDF leaders, are pursuing a merciless policy of scorched earth, mass destruction and elimination of all inconvenient

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witnesses. The Council will recall the murder of American tourists about two years ago in circumstances similar to those of the ICRC staff.

My Government wishes once again to emphasize to the Council that one of the prerequisites for the restoration of lasting peace in my country is necessarily the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of the Ugandan forces from the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in accordance with all the relevant resolutions of the Council on the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

My Government requests you to have this circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Atoki **Ileka**
Minister Counsellor
Chargé d'affaires a.i.